

NATIONAL RECORDER.

Containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

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Miscellany.

TO MR. YORICK.

Sir—I have determined to submit for your consideration, the case of an individual, whom I believe to be so much like a great part of mankind, that it will serve as the description of a class, and therefore any advice that you may offer on the subject, may be useful to more than the writer.

As long as I can remember, I have always been very desirous of making myself agreeable to my companions and friends. This has perhaps made me more accommodating in my habits and manners than I should otherwise have been, and yet I do not think I have been conspicuous for civility or affability. I have always been in a great degree modified by the company I kept. Not that I am more likely than others to entertain opinions of their superiority; for I have often been changed by the society of those whom I knew to be my inferiors in every thing upon which I could pride myself.

A kind of moral disease, which prevents my having a due regard to the distant future, has always attended me. A conversation with a distinguished man, or with any body who spoke warmly and soundly, was very apt to make me look with a disproportionate regard, upon the subject on which he had been conversing, or the science in which he was most eminent. A spirited book, such as the life of some great man, would warm me into zeal, and I would think it impossible that my diligence should slacken hereafter, or that I should continue to throw away the time that was necessary to make me of some consequence in the world. But I was too indolent to begin at once, or yielded too easily to slight interruptions. I was like the steel

“Which, much excited, yields a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again,”

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and you will not easily believe that it is really true, that I often waste time in a manner unpleasant to me even at the moment, rather than exert the resolution to change my place or to begin at something that would be both useful and agreeable. I generally determined to be industrious from some period at a little distance before me, but when that arrived the fit was generally over.

I remember when reading Miss Edgeworth's “*To-Morrow*” for the third or fourth time, I was so much struck with the delineation of my own character, that I said to myself, I am determined that I will begin anew as soon as I have done the book. Happening to be struck at the moment with the recollection, that this too was an instance of putting off till to-morrow, I had the magnanimity to lay it down, and immediately employed myself in something that it was necessary to do. I thought then that I was effectually cured, but a very little time undeceived me.

Is there not, in the store of your philosophy, some charm that will give me the mastery over myself, and lessen the influence of *the present*? If you can give me steadiness enough to act according to what I clearly perceive to be expedient and agreeable, you will make me a happy man, and will give to society a useful member; for (I may say so, being unknown,) I am not deficient in the ability necessary for important business.

EDWARD.

TO MY YOUTHFUL CORRESPONDENT,

(For young he evidently is) I offer my best wishes for his amendment, but can do little more. If he is allured from the business of life, by companions of his own age, he must avoid them, and when not engaged at his studies, mix with his elders, and especially (if in his power) with men whose ability has raised them to honourable eminence. Let him look fre-

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quently into the *books* which he has found to have the greatest influence in exciting his industry. He has felt the strength of habit when on the side of indolence—let him endeavour to make her act in a contrary direction. Resolutions to do good are laughed at, because they are generally broken; but who ever was earnest in any pursuit without having previously determined to be so? Let him then fix upon some portion of time, say an hour, or two hours, or four hours, according to his strength, which shall every day be industriously employed, and determine to adhere as strictly as is possible to his rule. Should accident put it out of his power on one day, let extraordinary diligence on the next compensate him for it.

One other remark deserves his serious attention. He thinks he is not deficient in ability. *Let him be careful how he estimates his character from his good intentions.* He is not able to do what he wants resolution to undertake. There are and have been men without number, who, in every thing but virtuous energy, were qualified to adorn the highest stations in life. It is a very general error of young men in estimating their own degree in the scale of mental excellence, to fix upon that to which they could attain by persevering industry. They too often forget that the exertion is indispensable.

YORICK.

FROM THE WANDERING JEW.

I have lived in the world nearly two thousand years, and however I might have neglected the opportunity thus in my power of acquiring wisdom, it would have been hardly possible that I should not have been insensibly changed by the constant operation of accident and even the lapse of time. As I had no hope and no fear—no friendship and no rivalry, I was in full possession of my reason. It was unnecessary for me to be anxious about any thing in dispute, for I knew that I should live to see all things made manifest by the touch of Time. Perhaps the opinion of such a man may attract the attention of some one to a few thoughts on the best method of inculcating new doctrines.

For a long time in the early part of my life, I felt some contempt for the ardour with which men engage in strife and controversy about things which they must

leave so soon. Time and reflection have since taught me better. The decrees of the Almighty are always founded in wisdom, and an attentive examination of the laws of nature will show us the true end of man. In order to the exercise of his reasoning faculties, he needs the excitement of desire and hope. Were our exertions to be founded on nothing but the wish to avoid misery, how heartless, how sad would be human labour. But *now*, man looks forward with confidence to a great variety of good, of which the satisfaction of the necessities of life forms but a small part. His intellectual powers are brought forth, and he finds himself qualified for a higher degree of happiness than he had formerly conceived of. But I wander from my theme.

There never was any thing more true, and more important than the line, "True wisdom comes not from the head but heart." But all our arguments against prejudices, are directed entirely to reason, and indeed, the attempt to excite the passions is generally thought unfriendly to the discovery of truth. Whether it be a positive quality or not, I shall not now attempt to discover, but that feeling which warms us with a glow of generosity, and a determination to renounce all errors, however closely connected they may be with us, is certainly propitious to the progress of improvement. There have been several cases in which it has plainly appeared to be almost impossible to obtain a hearing in behalf of doctrines repugnant to prejudices fastened into us from youth. As it is so important to obtain this candid hearing, it becomes us, upon all occasions in which we think our arguments have any weight, to avoid any disrespect in our manner of speaking of the opinions against which we strive. Ridicule may, perhaps, be successful in shaming vice, or silencing folly, but it will have no effect upon opinions, strongly held because founded upon principles erroneous perhaps, but honest. On the contrary, it excites feelings of anger and self defence. We look upon such reasoning as offensive, inasmuch as to have held opinions so silly supposes a weakness in us. We collect our arguments to support the point, without considering whether the attack be just or not.

When prejudices are very inveterate, and are imbibed by large bodies of men, it is often impossible to destroy them by

any direct attack. In such cases we must direct our attention to the rising generation. Teach them truth, but say nothing of the errors, and the lapse of eight or nine years will wonderfully change the state of things, and gradually gain the attention of those who have the most obstinately refused to listen to us. It is seldom, however, that a modest and earnest appeal to reason is entirely disregarded.

Such was the gradual and glorious advancement of the gospel of that holy Being, for offending whom my existence is miraculously prolonged, and I am confined among men without any sympathy in their plans and projects. Yet has his mercy been extended even to me, and I soon learned the truth of the doctrine taught by his disciples. Violent at first were the denunciations of the chief among the Jews against those who joined the new sect, but the influence of the blameless lives and active goodness of the followers of Him who commanded us to love one another, soon disposed many to listen to the arguments of the converts, and when an unprejudiced hearing was gained, truth obtained a certain victory. I allude to this as the greatest illustration of the opinions I have been endeavouring to impress upon you. Farewell.

Columbia Bridge.—As I was lately walking over the very long bridge across the Susquehanna, at Columbia, I beguiled a weary hour, by reading the inscriptions along the wall. There are enough of them to form a volume, and although many are in the usual strain of vulgarity, others were interesting. I have forgotten most of them. One was, "Eliza Wilson, of Sheffield, Old England, went into perpetual banishment in the Illinois territory, May 24, 1819. England, with all thy faults I love thee still." Poor girl! I could readily conceive the sensation of loneliness and dejection with which it was written. The rougher sex bustle about wherever they may be, and in the anxious business attending the new scene, have less occasion to dwell upon the memory of a former home. Women, too, as they do not so much move about upon the earth, become more strongly attached to the place in which they have lived. Many of them have been accustomed through their whole lives, to see the sun sink behind the same

hills, and his first beams fall on the same trees. All their employments are connected with home, and all their thoughts bring to mind the scenes of childish gambols, youthful pleasures, or the business of mature age. Thus it is probable, that Eliza, even yet, while engaged in her household affairs, looks back with tender recollection and glistening eyes, upon the many happy days she spent in Sheffield. May prosperity follow her exertions here, and she will have no cause to repent of her irretrievable determination to leave her home. None of these reflections appear to have entered into the mind of the man who had written under her lines, "Go back, and be d—— you ——," adding an epithet suitable to his want of decent feeling.

There were many notices left by passengers, of their names and destination, and sometimes a remark was annexed—such as "Abraham Jones crossed this bridge on the 29th August, without a cent in his pocket, but pushed on for Ohio, hoping for better times." "Charles Denman, bound for Baltimore: good shoes, but no money." The air of spirit and resolution shown in these pleased me, though I did not quite like the aspiration after better times. Jones has not perhaps yet learned, that every thing must depend on his own exertions. Denman, I will warrant him, has now shoes and money both. Such an uncomplaining temper, and so philosophic a spirit as is shown in his determination to make the most of what he had, could not be long unrewarded.

Many of the passengers were from Great Britain and Ireland; and, in a single instance, one had written under his name, "God save King George." It is so commendable to preserve an affectionate attachment to our country and government, that I was surprised to find that some sturdy republican had affixed an imprecation beneath this expression of attachment to the old monarch. Some of the emigrants, and particularly those from Ireland, expressed their hope of here enjoying the liberty they were denied in Europe. They had my best wishes for the fulfilment of all their desires, and their assimilation to the habits of their new country.

There were very many names of swains and their mistresses, written together in the same hand. I could not but envy the writers, who had thus enlivened their so-

litary journey, by thinking on those who loved them.

JACQUES.

FROM THE NATIONAL GAZETTE.

AMERICAN POEM.

We mentioned, in a former number of this gazette, a poem in six cantos, published at New York, with the title, "Yamoyden: A Tale of the Wars of King Philip." The King Philip is the Sachem of Pokanoket, so famous in New England story, from whose character and exploits Mr. Southey is said to be weaving an epic. "Yamoyden" is the joint production of the anonymous editor and his deceased friend, the Rev. James Wallis Eastburn, son of James Eastburn, esq. of New York.

Neither of the authors had passed the age of twenty, when the poem was written. It is certainly an extraordinary work viewed in connexion with this circumstance. Much positive merit of various kinds may be claimed for it, without suspecting a bias in its favour from the highly estimable character left by that one of the youthful authors who is now, to the great loss of his friends and his country, mouldering in the grave. "Yamoyden" is full of genuine poetry; the powers of fancy and versification displayed in it are of a high order—it could flow only from minds richly gifted and elegantly cultivated. We speak not of its plan and general structure as a poetic tale, which, from the circumstances under which it was composed, as they are explained in the advertisement, could not be other than imperfect; but of the details of sentiment and description and the poetical style. Beautiful imagery and happy expression abound in it; such as would have attracted critical attention and applause in England, had they been found in a British work coming from votaries who had not yet attained their majority. Among the parts which the editor indicates as his own, the sermon introduced into the third canto, particularly deserves to be mentioned with commendation. We hope to find room for a part or the whole of this metrical sermon, hereafter. As our limits will not allow us to enter into an analysis of the poem or dwell upon its prominent passages, we must be content to select one of these as a specimen—the introduction to the second canto.

Hail! sober Evening! thee the harassed brain
And aching heart with fond orisons greet:
The respite thou of toil; the balm of pain;
To thoughtful mind the hour for musing meet:

'Tis then the sage, from forth his lone retreat,
The rolling universe around espies;
'Tis then the bard may hold communion sweet
With lovely shapes, unkennd by grosser
eyes,
And quick perception comes of finer mysteries.

The silent hour of bliss! when in the west
Her ardent cresset lights the star of love:—
The spiritual hour! when creatures blest
Unseen return o'er former haunts to rove;
While sleep his shadowy mantle spreads
above:
Sleep, brother of forgetfulness and death,
Round well known couch, with noiseless tread
they rove,
In tones of heavenly music comfort breathe,
And tell what weal or bale shall chance the
moon beneath.

Hour of devotion! like a distant sea,
The world's loud voices faintly murmuring
die;
Responsive to the spherul harmony,
While grateful hymns are borne from earth
on high.
O! who can gaze on yon unsullied sky,
And not grow purer from the heavenward
view!
As those, the Virgin Mother's meek, full eye,
Who met, if uninspired lore be true,
Felt a new birth within, and sin no longer knew.

Let others hail the oriflamme of morn,
O'er kindling hills unfurled with gorgeous
dies!
O mild, blue evening—still to thee I turn,
With holier thought and with undazzled
eyes;—
Where wealth and power with glare and
splendour rise,
Let fools and slaves disgustful incense burn!
Still Memory's moonlight lustre let me prize;
The great, the good, whose course is o'er,
discern,
And, from their glories past, time's mighty les-
sons learn!

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS.

"Massachusetts is divided into 450 townships, each six miles square, and subdivided into seven or eight school districts, making the number of school districts in the whole state 3,600. No scholar is obliged to walk further than three-fourths of a mile from the extremity to the centre of the district, where the school is situated.

"Each township is by law obliged to raise money for schools, not less than 300 dollars, if I mistake not, and as much more as it deems proper: the sums raised usually vary from five to fifteen hundred dollars, each township, according to the ability of its inhabitants, each of whom pays his proportion, not as a contribution or subscription, but as a tax, regularly assessed as other taxes are for other purposes. Two methods of distributing the money among

the people are used: 1st, the quantity received by each is regulated by its number of scholars; 2d, the district receives no more than was raised in it. Generally for three or four months in the winter a master is engaged at from 10 to 20 dollars per month; and a mistress for five or six months in the summer, at from 4 to 8 dollars per month. *A person who is not qualified to teach Geography, Grammar, and Geometry, and not well recommended for his morals, &c. is forbid, under heavy penalties by law, to take charge of a school.* Thus the legislature becomes a guardian and protector of the morals of its constituents. The expense of supporting these schools, does not, on an average, exceed three dollars per scholar a year. The poor it costs nothing, and the rich have no reason to complain; for the education of the children of the poor and his own costs him five times less than it does the middle or southern states." [Green Gaz.

From the *National Intelligencer*.

Senate Chamber, Jan. 20, 1821.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton—The enclosed communication which I have received from Mr. Robinson, I take the liberty of forwarding to you, with a request that you will insert it in the *National Intelligencer*. The important information it contains, will, I am persuaded, be highly acceptable to your readers.—I have the honour to be, very respectfully, JNO. H. EATON.

Washington City, Jan. 15, 1821.

Since the invention of the mariner's compass, and the improvements in ship-building, voyages of discovery have been undertaken and executed under the auspices of several nations. The results may be considered of the highest importance to the human race.

The discovery and settlement of the American continent by a civilized people forms an epoch in historic annals, more interesting to the family of mankind than any we have upon record.

Although the nations of Europe have made, and are still making, efforts to obtain a correct knowledge of the coasts of the new world, yet much remains to be done; and we humbly think that the fame and interests of the republic of the United States are as deeply involved in this subject as any other nation in the civilized world.

As yet we are indebted, for our knowledge of the continent of America, to other na-

tions than our own. Among the celebrated navigators who occupy a distinguished place in history, Cook, Anson, Vancouver, &c. are the boast of England, and reflect immortal honour on the sovereigns and enlightened statesmen who patronized their voyages.

France speaks with pride of her enterprising Peyrouse. The measures she adopted to ascertain his fate, as well as the sympathy of mankind for the loss of so able a navigator, evince the high regard in which his character and talents were held.

The Portuguese and Spaniards, as well as the Dutch and Russians, have emulated each other in equipping expeditions for the circumnavigation of the globe, and more particularly for exploring the north-west coast of America.

The discoveries of Cook, on the north-west coast, were of limited extent, nor had he time to explore, with precision, even those parts which he did visit.

Peyrouse was in a similar situation with Cook; he passed merely in view of the coast, but was rarely able to approach it, in consequence of foggy weather. His observations chiefly apply to the Port des Francaise, (at which place he delayed some time) and to the rest of the coast as far south as Monterey; but, even in that space, he had scarcely any communication with the shore.

Cook, after leaving the Sandwich Islands, proceeded for the N. W. coast, and made the land in lat. 44 north, and thence went to Nootka, but even Cook gives us little or no information of the coast.

A navigator of the name of Dixon, has given us some loose and general accounts upon the subject: but, as he was a mere fur trader, and only visited those places where peltry of the best quality could be procured, we derive little information from him.

The viceroy of Mexico, in the year 1775, ordered three small vessels, with experienced navigators, to proceed from the port of San Blas, and to explore the north-west coast. Obstinate winds and foggy weather prevented them from making any observations until they reached lat. 41 north, where they entered a port which they called Trinity.

They extol in extravagant language the beauty of the country and its benign climate. They proceeded from Trinity to latitude $47\frac{1}{4}$ north, and mention having found there an excellent port. From thence they went as far north as 58, but made very superficial examinations

of the coast. They touched, on their return voyage, at Port St. Francis, in lat. 38, 18, near which they entered a large bay, well sheltered from the north and southwest, and where they saw the *mouth of a large river*, but had not time to explore it.

They returned to San Blas in October, 1775, without having made any discoveries that merit particular notice.

Another expedition sailed from San Blas in 1779, and proceeded as far north as 60, but returned without making any important discoveries. Indeed, from the imperfect manner those expeditions were equipped, and the want of skill in those who conducted them, much was not to be expected.

Vancouver's voyage has afforded additional lights on the subject, but they are better calculated to awaken than to satisfy curiosity; and, indeed, he, as well as all preceding navigators on the N. W. coast of America, have entirely neglected the examination of that part of the coast which most *particularly interests the United States*: I allude to the space between lat. 42 and 49. It is that part of the coast to which the present observations are principally intended to apply.

Should a voyage of discovery be undertaken by the government of the United States, on the principles hereafter suggested, I hope the whole coast from lat. 42 to the highest latitude of practical navigation on the N. W. coast, will be accurately explored. Because I feel well assured that such an undertaking would not only redound to the fame of our country, and to that of the individuals entrusted with the enterprise, but would produce incalculable advantages to the commerce and prosperity of the United States.

In looking over the best map of Mexico and the N. W. coast of America, we find that from lat. 42, to the mouth of Columbia river, and to the straits of Juan de Fuca, the whole coast is represented as destitute of any good bays; and no river of any consequence, except the Columbia, is laid down in the charts. This may in some degree be accounted for, from the circumstances before suggested, that the coast has never been closely examined; but the following facts will show, that the coast in question is worthy of the serious and prompt attention of our government.

During the time I remained in Mexico, in 1816, a copy of an important manuscript was furnished me by one of the revolutionary chiefs, for the express purpose of being communicated to our government.

This document, as well as my other papers, was lost, by the circumstances which are detailed in my volume of the *Memoirs of the Mexican Revolution*; but the important contents of the papers in question are still fresh in my recollection.

The Spaniards have several missionary establishments on the coast of Old and New California, whence one or two friars are annually despatched to the interior of the country to convert the Indians to the Christian doctrine, and to obtain topographical information of those regions. Some of those friars were men of great enterprise and perseverance, and have displayed in their reports much profound observation on the country they traversed, particularly on its productions, animal and vegetable, and on the lakes and rivers with which it abounds. This valuable information was transmitted with great care to the city of Mexico, and there locked up in the ecclesiastical archives, except such portion of it as the archbishop of Mexico thought proper to communicate to the viceroy.

In the years 1810 and 11, two friars made an excursion up the river Colorado. This noble river discharges itself in the Gulf of California about the latitude 32, 40. The bar at its mouth has 6 to 9 fathoms water on it, and the river may be ascended with a line of battle ship at least 100 miles. The friars followed the course of this river nearly 650 miles; they found the current gentle, with scarcely any impediments to its navigation by large vessels nearly the whole distance. Several fine streams emptied into the Colorado, but they did not explore their sources. They state the principal source of the Colorado to be in the Rocky or Snowy Mountains, between latitude 40 and 41. The description they give of the country through which the Colorado flows would induce the reader to believe that it is the finest region in the Mexican empire. They represent the banks of the river as being in many places 100 feet above its surface; that the whole country is a forest of majestic trees, and that they never had seen such exuberant vegetation. When they came to the ridge of mountains where the Colorado has its source, they proceeded a few miles on the eastern declivity of the ridge, and to their astonishment found several streams pursuing a course nearly opposite to these, on the western side of the ridge. I presume, from the descriptions of the friars, that the streams which thus excited their surprise were the head wa-

ters of the Arkansas, La Platte, and some others of our great rivers, which have their sources in those regions.

The friars spent several days on the eastern side of the ridge—they passed over six distinct rivers, all of which they say were of considerable depth and width—they met several roving bands of Indians, who treated them with kindness, and conducted them by a short route on their return over the ridge to the river Colorado. The distance between the sources of the respective rivers on each side of the ridge, they represent as very trifling, not exceeding 22 or 25 leagues. They represent the ridge as full of deep ravines, and have no doubt that it would be easy to open a water communication by canals between the rivers before mentioned. They gave a glowing description of the beauty of the country, comparing it to the hills and vales of Andalusia and Grenada. They dwell particularly on the mildness of the climate, and recommended the immediate establishment there of two missionaries.

The original intention of the two friars was to return to Monterey, by descending the Colorado, but learning from the Indians that at a short distance to the west there were two other rivers as large as the Colorado, they determined on exploring the country, and accordingly, after travelling two days, they came to a spacious lake, which they described to be about forty leagues in circumference; from this lake issued two fine rivers. They descended what they considered the largest stream, whose general course was about W. N. W. After descending about fifty leagues, they represent the river to be deep, and in many places a mile in width. They continued their route until the river discharged itself on the coast of California, at about the latitude 43 30. They state the bar at the mouth of the river to have on at least 20 feet water. They procured a large canoe from the Indians, and went leisurely along the coast until they reached Monterey. On their route they discovered several fine harbours and deep bays, which they describe as far superior to the port of Monterey. It is possible some portion of the remarks of these friars may not be correct, but of the fidelity of their general statements I have no doubt, particularly as to the important fact of their having descended a river which disembogues on the California coast, at the latitude before mentioned.

One of these friars, in the year 1812, was sent from Monterey to Mexico, with

despatches to the archbishop. On his route from San Blas to the city of Mexico, he was intercepted by a party of revolutionists, and was sent with his papers to the headquarters of the patriots. It was a copy of those papers that was put into my hands.

By the treaty recently made between the United States and Spain, the southern limits of our republic on the Pacific ocean will be found somewhere between the latitude 41 and 42 N. The first object which I presume will occupy the attention of our government, will be to send an exploring party by land, conducted by able officers, to examine the tract of country from the head waters of the Red River and the Arkansas, to the coast of California, and if it should be found that a river, as before described, has its source, and discharges itself within our territory, it requires no gift of prophecy to predict that this section of our country will become highly important.

During the time that an expedition by land is occupied in topographical investigations, could not one or more ships of our navy be despatched on a voyage of discovery, and in the first instance to survey accurately the range of coast from our southern to our northern boundary. After accomplishing this essential object, they may proceed along the northwest coast to the extremities of our continent, pass over to the Asiatic coast, and thence shape their course for the Indian Archipelago, carrying our star-spangled banner among a people with whom the civilized world has scarcely yet had any intercourse. These Indian islands offer an immense field for American enterprise. They contain upwards of fifteen millions of inhabitants, and cover a space of near five millions of square miles.

Great Britain, and the other European nations, are just beginning to traffic with them; our citizens will soon be among them.

If the United States select a proper site for a town on the Pacific ocean, any where between the latitudes 42 and 49, it would speedily become a great commercial emporium. It is not merely that the advantages of the fur trade would be there immediately concentrated, but a traffic would be opened with Asia, with Japan, the Philippine isles, and with the whole Indian Archipelago. The climate on the Pacific coast, within the before mentioned latitudes, is much milder than the parallel latitudes on the Atlantic, and of course offers a delightful residence for man; and if

the fertility of the soil corresponds with the statements we have received, there is no part of our republic where European emigrants would be more likely to settle than in the country lying between the Pacific ocean and the head waters of Arkansas and Red river. A chain of military posts from the two last rivers to our town on the Pacific ocean, would not only give us the command of the Indian fur trade in those regions, but would open an internal communication, the importance of which would be every day augmenting. The inhabitants of New Mexico would speedily awake from the torpor in which they have been so long, and would flock to our posts and to our establishments on the Pacific ocean for purposes of traffic. A thousand objects of commerce, of which neither the merchant nor manufacturer at present contemplate, would arise, in proportion as those regions became settled by a civilized people, under a liberal government. This is a subject fruitful of important reflections. But my object in this memoir is merely to excite attention to the matter. I shall merely draw outlines, and leave to the reader to form his own conclusions.

Exclusive of the preceding suggestions, there are other considerations of no ordinary character which appear to me to urge the policy and necessity of our government fixing on a place on the Pacific ocean for a commercial and military post.

It would afford our merchant vessels and our navy shelter and security, the want of which has already been seriously felt by our citizens, whose enterprise has led them to the Pacific ocean.

It would cause our flag to be respected over regions where, ere long, we may have to act a conspicuous part.

The government of Russia has already planted her standard to the north and to the south of our acknowledged territories on the Pacific ocean. The Imperial eagle is displayed on a fort at Norfolk Sound, in latitude 57; a fortification mounting 100 pieces of heavy cannon is there erected. About the latitude 38 degrees 40 minutes, at a place called Badoga Point, the Russians have recently formed an establishment.

The government of Spain has not possessed means to dispossess the Russians of these establishments, but she has at various times made strong remonstrances to the court of Russia on the subject.

The encroachments of Russia, on the American continent at Norfolk Sound, may have been supported by the same

plausible pretexts which Great Britain had used on several occasions; viz. that the country was unoccupied by Spain or any other civilized people, and that the right of Spain over all the northwest coast of America was merely nominal, or very questionable. Without discussing the force or fallacy of these arguments, there can be no question that the Russia settlement, at Badoga Point, is within the universally acknowledged territory of New Spain.

It is well known that of late years the Russian cabinet have been anxiously endeavouring to obtain from Spain a cession of territory on the northwest coast, and indeed, it has been said, that a treaty to that effect was actually made, but, for some reasons not generally known, it has not yet been carried into effect.

There is no circumstance which has excited more indignation among the Mexican people, than that of the Russians having made an establishment at Badoga Point; and if the Mexican revolutionists had succeeded in their struggle for independence, one of the first acts of the new government would have been the expulsion of the Russians from that post.

Whatever may have been the views of the Russian cabinet in making these establishments in America, I do not conceive it a point of much consequence to discuss, because, even if those views were political, or merely commercial, we have it completely in our power to render them abortive, by simply forming the establishment before suggested, any where between the latitude 42 and 49.

The enterprise of our citizens would, in a very few years, ensure to us that traffic in the fur trade which the Russians have hitherto enjoyed with the savages on the northwest coast. The Russians would soon abandon establishments when they ceased to be lucrative; and, when they beheld the civilized population of America spreading along the coasts of the Pacific ocean, and covering the territories between that ocean and the Rocky Mountains, the dreams of Russian ambition (if any were ever indulged) on our continent would soon be dispelled.

To form an establishment, as before suggested, would not, in my humble opinion, be attended with any new or extraordinary demands on our treasury.

The employment of one or two of our ships of war, at present in commission, would cause little extra expense for the object in question. But, even admitting that a few hundred thousand dollars would

be expended, of what importance is it, when compared to the magnitude of the objects to be accomplished? Can our public vessels be better employed than in a survey of our coasts, and in voyages of discovery? How many of our gallant officers would rejoice at an opportunity of seeing opened to their exertions a new path to fame? How many men of science would cheerfully embark in such expeditions?

Can a portion of our military be better employed than in exploring our newly acquired territories? How many of our brave officers would be proud of being appointed on such an expedition? How many naturalists and scientific men would cheerfully, at their own expense, accompany such an expedition?

I am perfectly aware that, in these days of retrenchment, any proposition that bears the features of new expenses, will be frowned on by some of our rigid economists; but, as the object suggested is one in which I humbly conceive the interests of our country, commercially and politically, are deeply involved, I flatter myself the hints I have thus cursorily thrown out, will attract the consideration of our government and our citizens, and have their due weight at the present, or at some future period.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM DAVIS ROBINSON.

To the Hon. JOHN H. EATON.

The Northwest Coast.

Doubts are entertained, by intelligent citizens, with whom we have conversed, of the policy and propriety of a disclosure, *at this time*, of the advantages which may probably result to the United States from the possession of an extent of coast on the Pacific. We were not aware, at the time of publishing Mr. Robinson's memoir, that the subject had been brought before the government several years ago, and that it had so far met with a favourable consideration, that the two frigates *Guerriere* and *Java*, to be placed under the command of commodore Porter, were selected to explore the northwestern quarter of our country. Nor were we informed, as we now are, that Mr. R. had had access to the documents which had produced this determination, one of which, in justice to the officer with whom the plan originated, is subjoined. This memoir was never intended for publication, and although he may, as regards himself, feel the necessity, nothing but the circumstances above alluded to could convince him of the propriety of now making it public. If there be any credit

due, be it to whom it may belong. The plan, as proposed by commodore Porter, has been acted on as far as the public interest would seem to require.

—
Washington, Oct. 31, 1815.

Sir—Prompted by the desire of serving my country, and of using every effort for her honour and glory, unaided by the counsel or by the countenance of those high in authority, I come forward, a solitary individual, to suggest a plan of equal importance to any that has been undertaken by any nation, at any period, for enlarging the bounds of science, adding to the knowledge of men, and to the fame of the nation. But, without farther preface, I propose to you to undertake a voyage of discovery to the North and South Pacific oceans.

It may at first view appear strange that, at this late period, a voyage should be proposed with a view to new discoveries; but let it be remembered, that so late as 1803, Russia fitted out two ships with this object in view, which expedition attracted the attention of the whole world—afforded important results—and the voyage of G. H. Von Langsdorff, must be read with interest by all. Every nation has successively contributed in this way but us; we have profited by their labours; we have made no efforts of our own. Even the Dutch and Portuguese have shown a degree of enterprise which has not been equalled by us, and when their sovereigns and nations shall otherwise have been forgotten, the voyages of their navigators will immortalize them. To the voyages of Juiros, Mendana, and others, the Spanish nation owes its chief fame; and the voyages of Cook, Anson, Vancouver, &c. are the greatest boasts of England. The loss of *La Perouse* has proved to the world how much they were interested in his fate, and the measures adopted by France, relating to him, during a period of anarchy, serve to show the pride and feeling of the nation. All nations for *La Perouse* envy France, and all mankind deplore him. He had much to do—did much—and left much undone. Ships were sent in search of him, and of other objects, and failed from various causes. Of the objects pointed out by him for investigation, many are still left for others to investigate: and many interesting points in geography and science still remain undetermined.

The most important features of Cook's voyages, are descriptions of islands and people, which had been long before visited by the Spaniards and others—and, although

that navigator has immortalized himself, his nation, and every man of the expedition, he has given us no new discoveries. The same may be said of Vancouver—yet the voyages of both will be read with interest, and will undoubtedly be of great utility to those which follow them. Minute as they may appear, there are yet great extents of ocean that have never been traversed by ships, and innumerable islands of which we have only traditionary accounts. There are nations on this globe not known to civilized man, or, if known, known but imperfectly.

We, sir, are a great and rising nation. We have higher objects in view than the mere description of an island, which had been seen by others—the mere ascertaining the trade that may be carried on with a tribe of Indians. We possess a country whose shores are washed by the Atlantic and the Pacific—a country on which the sun shines the greater part of his round—a country on which all the world have turned their eyes—and a country in which even monarchs have sought a refuge—of whose extent, resources and inhabitants, we are ourselves ignorant. We border on Russia, on Japan, on China—our trade is now of sufficient importance there to attract the attention and excite the cupidity of an enemy. We border on islands which bear the same relation to the northwest coast, as those of the West Indies bear to the Atlantic states: islands, the chief of which are friendly in the utmost degree to our traders, without any knowledge of the nation to which they belong. Other nations have there been represented by their ships, ours never. Others have contributed to meliorate their situation, and to introduce civilization amongst them; we have profited by their philanthropy, without having made any return—we have reaped all the advantages of the labours of others, and gratitude and duty now call loudly on us to add to their store.

The important trade of Japan has been shut against every nation except the Dutch, who, by the most abject and servile means, secured a monopoly. Other nations have made repeated attempts at an intercourse with that country, but, from a jealousy in the government, and from other causes, (among which may be named a want of manly dignity on the part of the negotiators,) they have all failed. Great changes have since taken place in the world—changes which may have affected even Japan; the time may be favourable, and it would be a glory, beyond that acquired by

any other nation, for us, a nation of only 40 years standing, to beat down their rooted prejudices—secure to ourselves a valuable trade, and make that people known to the world.

The same views may be had in regard to China, and if no results should be obtained superior to those produced by the mission of lord Macartney, we shall have an opportunity, by a display of our ships, to raise ourselves in the estimation of a people, who know us now only as merchants.

Various other objects could be effected in this voyage. My views are general: the whole world is embraced in them. Let us visit those parts that have been perfectly explored; search out those of which we have only traditionary accounts, and traverse those parts of the ocean over which a ship has never passed. Let men of science be employed by the different societies of America, to accompany the expedition, and suffer no means to be left untried by which we may profit.

Every thing now favours the object. The world is at peace. We have come honourably out of two naval wars; we have ships which require little or no additional expense; officers who will soon require employ, and who would be greatly benefited by the experience; men of talents in every part of the United States, who would take pride in placing their nation on an eminence with others.

An expedition connected with the one by sea, might also be undertaken by land to the Pacific, and pursuing a course different from that followed by others. On arriving at the Pacific, they might be landed farther north or south and return.

Washington might be made a first meridian for the United States, and the longitude of the discoveries made, calculated therefrom. Nations, undertaking similar expeditions, have invariably thought it necessary to ask passports from others for the ships. It would be well, perhaps, to consider whether the United States are not now in a state to undertake this voyage, without the aid of such passports.

With the highest respect, I have the honour to be, your very obedient servant,

D. PORTER.

His Excellency, JAMES MADISON,
President of the United States

The Society for the Promotion of Legal Knowledge and Forensic Eloquence.—"As there is nothing which can tend so effectually to insure the permanence and pre-

serve the purity of the excellent system of laws under which it is our pride and happiness to live, as to afford to that portion of our studious youth, who intend to devote their lives to the legal profession, every possible means by which they may acquire not a slight and superficial but a deep and correct knowledge of that science, which, next to that of divine things, is the prime support of virtue and morality, and which, when well understood, and its precepts duly enforced, is the protection of the weak and the terror of the wicked: and it being also the opinion of many grave, sober and judicious men, that the mode of legal education which is at present pursued, although not without its advantages, yet is not of itself sufficient to produce all the effect which might be obtained if it were connected with a more scientific and academical system of instruction; whereby not only a greater degree of jurisprudential knowledge might be acquired, but the students might also be exercised in the art of public speaking, so as to unite the talent of the orator with the science of the jurist:—Desirous, therefore, of promoting as far as in us lies an object so important to society at large, and so honourable to the legal profession, we, the subscribers, have agreed to associate, and by these presents do associate together, in manner, and under the rules, terms, and conditions following: that is to say:

Preamble to the Constitution.

Missouri.—The St. Louis Enquirer, the most violent of the Missouri newspapers, asks "What shall Missouri do, if rejected? Fall back into the territorial grade? We hope not. *Set up for herself?* We hope not. The former would be to succumb to the Catalines of the north; the latter would be to promote their views." From this it would appear, that there is no intention of establishing an independent government. Another paper, printed at St. Louis (the Missouri Gazette), says Missouri "can only lose her sovereignty when no longer able to defend it." We know not in what repute the latter paper is held in Missouri, but believe it to be much less respectable than the Enquirer. On the 18th December (says the National Gazette) the state circuit court for the county of St. Louis held its first session. Some objections having been made at the bar to certain writs, on the ground of the want of regular jurisdiction, the court decided that "the state government was not only

theoretically formed, but in full and constitutional operation, as regarded the constitution of the United States and that of Missouri." Judge Tucker's address to the grand jury is very "excellent in language and spirit," and although no direct allusion is made to the question of the admission of Missouri into the union, the cautions given appear to apply to the dispute. We copy some of them.

"It will become us, in every stage of our political existence, to remember the protection that we have enjoyed, the equal justice that has been extended to us, to respect the principles, and to cherish the spirit, which we have imbibed from the laws and institutions of our common country."

"Above all things it should be our study to show, by our public and private conduct, that the state of pupilage, of which we have been sometimes prone to complain, has not terminated too soon."

"Let us be careful not to give occasion to the enemies of free government to remark how much better it may be for a people to be governed by wise and wholesome laws and upright officers, though deriving their power from the most questionable authority, than to be given up to the sway of unsubdued passion, unskilful ignorance, restless ambition, and unprincipled intrigue. Let us see that none of these things have dominion over us."

"It is now that we are to learn to submit to the severe but necessary discipline of wholesome institutions, and to set that example of deference to the sovereign will of the law, of equal and exact justice to all men, of moderation and self respect, which it is so much easier to follow than to originate."

"Gentlemen, I am fearful that at this time we have more than an ordinary portion of our most painful duties to perform. The reins of authority cannot be passed from hand to hand without being a little relaxed. There are men always ready to seize on such occasions to gratify their worst passions, and unfortunately the circumstances attending a change of government are too much calculated to call into action every evil principle of our nature."

The following allusions to the Missouri question were made by governor Robinson of Louisiana, in his inaugural speech. They are noticed with approbation in the Kentucky Reporter:

"Fortunately for us, the newly invented sympathy for a certain description of our

population had not been discovered at the time of our introduction into the union, or it is probable a state of things would have been attempted, as insulting to the independence, as ruinous to the best interests of the state. To be explicit: there is every reason for the inhabitants of our common country to love, respect and esteem each other: this is, in truth, very universally the case, among the generous and the liberal minded. It is proper that in our intercourse there should be deference and forbearance. There are some things of which we mutually complain, and on the subject of slavery, all we have to ask is this; that our eastern and northern brethren would forgive us the vice, or immorality, or misfortune (as they indifferently term it) of holding slaves, as we forgive them the disingenuousness, that would convert the circumstance into purposes of unholy ambition."

Mr. Eustis' resolution for the conditional admission of Missouri, was rejected on the 24th ult. by a vote of 146 to 6.

On the 29th Jan. on motion of Mr. Clay, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of the union, Mr. Smith, of Md. being called to the chair; and the resolution from the Senate, for admitting Missouri into the union, with a *caveat* against the provision, if there be any, which conflicts with the constitution of the United States, was taken up.

Mr. Randolph moved to strike out the *proviso* (or *caveat*) from the resolution, but waived his motion for the present, to accommodate Mr. Clay, who wished to address the committee on the whole subject.

Mr. Clay then delivered his sentiments at large on the present state of this question. He was in favour of the resolution from the Senate, and should vote for the resolution, even though more emphatically restricted against any supposed repugnance of one of its provisions, to a provision of the constitution of the United States, the existence of which, however, he did not by any means admit. When Mr. Clay concluded—

Mr. Randolph renewed his motion to strike out the *proviso*, and spoke for about 15 minutes in support of it.

Mr. Lowndes deprecated the motion, as going to present to the House the naked question which it had already decided in the negative, and as preventing a decision upon the proposition as it now stands.

Mr. Barbour assigned the reasons why he should vote against the motion; himself

regarding the *proviso* as useless and unnecessary, but willing to retain it to gratify gentlemen who were of a different opinion.

Mr. Sergeant inquired whether it would be in order, this *proviso* being stricken out, to move to introduce a different one.

The chairman decided that it would.

The question was then taken on striking out the *proviso*, and decided in the negative, 82 to 54. So the *proviso* was retained.

Mr. Foot moved to amend the resolution by adding to it another *proviso*, that it be taken as a fundamental condition on which said state is admitted into the union, that so much of the constitution as requires the legislature to pass laws to prevent the migration of free people of colour thither, shall be expunged from the constitution of the state within two years from this time, in the mode prescribed for amending the constitution. [This would admit Missouri into the union forthwith, on the conditions stated.]

Mr. Baldwin having expressed his intention to vote for this proposition—

Mr. Clay moved to amend the amendment by adding words to this effect: "so far as the same (the clause of the Missouri constitution) tends to deprive citizens of each state of the privileges and immunities of citizens of the several states." This motion, however, he subsequently withdrew.

It being suggested, that other gentlemen had amendments which they wished to propose, and that it would be well to have them all presented to-day, so as to be examined and compared—

Mr. Sergeant rose, as it might be supposed, from the question he had put, that he had an amendment to offer, to say that he had not; that he should vote for every amendment which should bring the resolution nearer to what he wished, but with a clear determination, for which he would hereafter assign his reasons, to vote against the resolution, however amended.

Soon after this, the committee rose, without coming to any decision; and the House adjourned.

On the 25th January, in the House of Representatives, the final vote was taken on the resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution, so as to establish a uniform mode of electing by districts the electors of president and vice-president, and the representatives in Congress. The vote was—yeas 92, nays 56. Two-thirds of the members present not having voted in its favour, it was of course rejected.

Parliament met on the 23d Nov. and were instantly prorogued, by royal proclamation, to the 23d January. A message from the queen to the House of Commons, was about to be delivered, when the house were commanded to attend the commissioners at the bar of the Lords. The tumult was so great, that the messenger could not be heard, but the speaker having had a previous intimation, with the ministers and several other members left the house.

It is said, in an article from Frankfort, that all hope of peace in the south of Europe is at an end. Russia will join Austria against Naples. The king of Prussia has not acknowledged the revolutionary government of Portugal. Sardinia, it is said, will be neuter. The discovery of a formidable plot against the Danish government, has been announced in Copenhagen. The mutiny of a regiment of the Russian imperial guards, excited much speculation, as it was supposed to be connected with political events: this is now thought untrue. The king of Spain having nominated a new governor of Madrid by his own authority, the city was in a state of confusion from the 15th to the 18th November. It was restored to order by a message from the king, who has ordered his ministers to propose some suitable person for that office.

On the 11th Nov. the troops at Lisbon were called out and sworn to the constitution, which is that of Spain.

Another attempt is to be made at further discoveries in the polar seas. Captain Parry, it is said, will have the command. The attempt is not to be made in so high a latitude as Lancaster Sound, but to explore the American coast in a southerly direction.

Variety.

Englishmen and Frenchmen. "Frenchmen," says an English writer, "are as remarkable for their cautious scepticism, as our nation is for blind credulity," and I recollect two stories that were told in conversation in proof of this opinion.

A man advertised in London, that he would on a certain time creep into a quart bottle—price of admission to the

scene, one shilling. A great concourse of people assembled at the appointed time, but after they had waited a long time, and began to be impatient, a man appeared on the stage, to say that his master was extremely sorry to have been the means of disappointing so many people, but that he had in the morning, by command of his majesty, crept into a *pint* bottle, and had not since been able to get out.

In consequence of a wager between two Englishmen, one of them went to Paris, and procuring a bag of French crowns, went on the Boulevards, and took his station where great numbers of people were passing. He offered to sell his crowns at half price, and invited all who came near, to purchase. The wily Frenchmen, looked at the crowns on all sides, tried if they sounded well, and bit them, to ascertain the hardness of the metal, but suspecting some trick, could not be prevailed upon to make the bargain. He even offered to let the crowns be examined by silversmiths, but nobody would take the trouble, and he was obliged to return with his whole stock.

It ought not to be supposed, that the crowd who attended the exhibition of the bottle, believed that the advertiser would perform his promise. They went to see how he would evade his engagement. The same thing cannot be said for the Spaniards, who came in great numbers to the banks of a river to see two Englishmen walk over on the water. For what purpose the report was spread about I know not, but it was quite unfortunate in its conclusion, for two English officers appearing shortly afterwards on the opposite bank, the people supposed that they would perform the miracle, and were so much displeased at their stepping into a boat, and crossing in the usual way, they pelted them with stones, on their landing, in such a manner that one of them was very seriously injured.

"To show that nothing is too absurd for men to assign as the cause of any unlooked for movement in society, it may be observed, that a serious attempt was made by a writer in 1673, to prove that the distress of the labouring classes, was the consequence of the introduction of stage coaches, instead of the old mode of travelling on horseback."—*Harl. Misc.* vii. 524. *Eden.* i. 189. *Letter to Sir Robt. Peel*, 69.

"Human establishments spring out of some strong necessity, or some prevailing opinions of the age. They are nursed with care in their infancy, and actively superintended by some benevolent and patriotic men; and while the zeal lasts, while the authors of them are flattered with observing their success, and are enabled to point to the fruits of their own exertions, no symptom of decay appears. But a life so precarious, is shorter even than the life of man; it is commensurate not with the existence, but with the activity only and the perseverance of individuals, and seldom lives in full vigour through half a generation."—*A second letter to Sir Robert Peel, on the Poor Laws, &c.*

The Society for the Prevention of Pauperism held its fourth anniversary meeting at the City Hotel, New York, on the evening of the 19th ult. "It appears that the number of paupers in that city is about 13,000. The annual expense of supporting them is about \$250,000. About 8000 children are growing up in that city without education or the inculcation of moral habits, and nearly 10,000 families neglect all public worship."

The fourth annual meeting of the American Colonization Society, was held at Washington, on the 18th ult. Among other resolutions, the following was passed:

"While the society laments the calamities which have befallen it during the past year, it does not despair of that success, the hope of which led to its organization, and which, from its moral and political importance, is so desirable."

The editor of the *Western Spy* has called upon the inhabitants of Cincinnati to form an Apprentices' Library in that city. How delightful must this be to those who founded the first institution of this kind!

On the 29th Jan. a public meeting was held in this city, to take into consideration the propriety of adopting means for the relief of the suffering poor; and committees were appointed to collect subscriptions and supplies, and to distribute to the poor in their respective districts.

The following curious perversion of the advice of Washington, is published in a bucktail paper in the interior of New York, as a sequel to some remarks upon a caucus meeting to recommend to the council of appointment certain candidates for office.

"We would, in one or two instances,

have preferred candidates who failed, but the moment we recur to the advice of the father of our liberty, to 'indignantly frown upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country [or party] from the rest, or to enfeeble the ties which now link together the various parts,' we cannot hesitate in recommending to the republicans of the county to support the convention."

A memorial, praying the President to send a naval force to protect the whaling vessels in the Pacific, from the consequences of admiral Cochrane's blockade, has been sent from Boston.

It is said, that a plot of the blacks to murder the whites and mulattoes at St. Domingo has been discovered, and the ringleaders imprisoned.

The expenses of the Massachusetts convention, are said to have been about 60,000 dollars.

A catfish, weighing 90 pounds, was lately caught in the Ohio at Shawnee town.

Extract of a Letter, dated Rome, Sept. 27, 1820.

The statue of the hero and patriot, WASHINGTON, by Canova, was nearly finished in the spring, and it promises to be one of the finest productions of the immortal sculptor.

We notice in a list of the benefactions to the theological institution at Andover, the following: Samuel Abbott, esq. \$100,000; William Bartlett, esq. \$90,000; Mrs. Norris, \$30,000; William Phillips & Son, \$15,000; John Norris, esq. \$10,000; Rufus Brown, esq. \$10,000.

[*N. Y. Ev. Post.*]

Littell & Henry will put to press on Wednesday next, the first number of the *Presbyterian Magazine*, a religious publication, to be conducted by the Rev. J. J. Janeway, D. D.; Rev. J. P. Wilson, D. D.; Rev. G. C. Potts; Rev. J. Banks, D. D.; Rev. J. Brodhead, D. D.; Rev. S. B. Wylie, D. D.; Rev. W. Neill, D. D.; Rev. E. S. Ely, D. D.; Rev. T. H. Skinner; Rev. R. M'Cartee; Rev. B. Hoff; Rev. W. M. Engles.

It will consist of 48 pages per month; price \$3 per annum, or \$2.50 if paid in advance.

Agriculture.

THE PEAR TREE.

Elmwood, January 1, 1821.

The great disappointment that has attended the cultivation of the finer kinds of the pear, has been matter of much regret, with all the lovers of this delicious fruit.

And some who were most forward to obtain them and most particular in nursing them, have utterly despaired, from a consciousness of their great attention to them, and knowledge of general failure. But let us remember, that a similar despair prevailed respecting grapes, which is now done away by actual cultivation.

The object of this paper is not only to inquire theoretically into the cause of the most common disease that assails them; but to produce actual facts, which must convince the mind of the most sceptical of the practicability of retaining these fine fruits, and that by means level to the capacity of every one.

The principal disease that affects them, and the one I particularly allude to, consists in a withering of the interior bark, especially of the limbs appearing in spring in spots and bars, and more extended affections of the same kind, spreading to the destruction of the individual limb, though the superior part of the limbs are often unaffected by the disease, and are only destroyed by being cut off from the juices of the main stock. As I know of no animal disease exactly resembling it in cause and effect more than *kibes*, which consists in cold overtaking a high circulation, and throwing off the skin to perish, I shall call it by that name, to distinguish it from the very improper appellation, *blast*, which is applied to trees killed simply by severity of cold or heat.

In all the various suggestions as to the cause of this disease, I never heard of one that came near the fact, which is more to be wondered at, as the real cause has been so strongly indexed by notorious facts. Such for instance, as hard winters, with long cold springs, giving us good pears and leaving us sound trees, whilst a warm winter, and especially a warm February followed by a cold March, (a thing almost inevitable,) destroys our trees. We have long been acquainted with this much of vegetable physiology, that the bark (as the juices fail and fail comes on) forms on its interior surface, longitudinal fibres, the same as sapwood, and by this means adheres to the main sapwood, becoming one and inseparable—and that when a certain temperature, say that of April, becomes steady, that those very same fibres, having lost their colour and become maternal, throw out juices and form fibres differently disposed and coloured, or bark. Just as we see on denudating a chesnut tree when the sap is running, a new bark is formed by light and heat acting on those juices, and giving

them a form and colour different from what would have ensued, if excluded more from light and heat.*

It would, therefore, seem to be the order of nature, that a tree could not otherwise exist in severe cold weather, but by this union of bark to the sapwood. This partial retrocession of juices and unity of the parts—a separation at such time, would be as certain to produce injury and death of the bark, as evolving its fruit buds would annihilate the fruit of the next season.

It appears, that light and heat, with the consequent flow of juices, by continuing to act on the organic matter of the tree, would form in the first or lowest degree of circulation, the above named longitudinal fibres of sapwood—in the next degree, bark, in a higher degree, leaves and buds of different kinds, by a still higher temperature the wood buds would be elongated into branches, and by the greatest degree, fruit buds into blossoms, germ and fruit—every one of these operations seem more and more external or exposed, as if the tree with consciousness of her safety, and the sun's approach, had successively unfolded her inmost recesses of beauty and usefulness; falling back in the same order with the retiring season—that which was last, failing first—till all has retreated into winter quarters.

It is a well known fact, that the finer kinds of pears are introduced from a milder climate than 39 degrees (from France,) and, therefore, are very sensible to both cold and heat. They are trees that abound with juices, as may be seen by the numerous scions that they fling up around them. If the latter part of winter, or early spring, is warm, these juices are set afloat, especially if the ground is rich and cultivated. In this degree of light and heat, the bark begins to form, a separation to take place from the new made sapwood, and in a few days winter returns upon the tree, or in other words, February has been spring, and March winter—an imperfect bark is thus separated from the mother white wood, and like the untimely weaned child, it sickens, it droops, and as heat is farther applied, the damage increases till it dies, because this heat evaporates the juices faster than it can force them into the contracted vessels—

* It appears that the sapwood in the plantule makes the first bark, as may be seen on the young melia, and then does the office occasionally to supply the deficiency by accidents, whilst the bark ever after annually makes sapwood, and increases the size of the tree with a visible addition.

which perhaps never can be made to expand again in the vegetable, whatever may be done in the animal economy.*

It is highly probable, that north of this, (viz. Maryland,) many trees die of winter cold, an excessive retrocession of the juices may become fatal, the bark may give way and split. This is often the case with exotic shrubbery, and it is remarkable, that they always give way on the trunk, where the bark is less elastic and scurfy. It will, therefore, be easy to distinguish this disease, which is more properly a blast, from *kibes*—and, moreover, it requires a very different treatment. Manuring articles made into a paste, and spread on the body and larger limbs with a sedge broom, will be a great defence where matting is not to be had—such for instance as whitewash, thickened with ashes and soft cow dung. But in the disease I have been describing, it might be the very cause of death.

Let us now proceed to matter of fact; I know of only two sets of healthy pear trees; they have in five or seven years changed owners. In the time of the former owners, much attention was paid to them, and disease was constant. The present owners neither manure nor dig about them. In one of these, I know that the grass has surrounded them unbroken for years, and they are not only perfect, but bear fruit, when all others fail—they are bergamot. In the other set alluded to, more attention is paid, the grass is cleared away in early summer, but the shoots are permitted to grow for forty feet around them in such quantity, as to defy any removal but with a scythe, and these remain till next grass time; no manure is applied, and the ground naturally poor. Even the unhealthy trees have shot out new and healthy branches, since they have remained undisturbed: these facts are too plain to be misunderstood, they point out the remedy as well as the manner of the remedy acting. The abundant juices are restrained in the first case, which is preferable, and in the latter they are partly restrained and partly diverted into the young scions.

I will mention two other facts, though not so plain, yet they confirm the above. I moved to a place where there were two very healthy pear trees, (Vergolieu,) one was choked, as I thought, with grass, the other was so surrounded with scions, as

* It is sometimes the middle of summer before the whole damage is developed, and some imperfect fruit forming, has led those who merely take a peep at the tree, to conclude it to be done at this time.

scarcely to admit approach. I removed the scions, dug and manured the ground in both, and the consequence soon ensued; I lost them by *kibes*. The other case that confirms those opinions and facts, was that of a gardener of my acquaintance, who was actually on the right track to save his trees, but for want of understanding the true cause of the disease, he failed—he discovered that the trees which had honeysuckles around them, were less liable to disease; but he supposed it were protection, and therefore manured and dug, and thus dug the grave of his fine trees.

Let us therefore suffer our trees, after they have come near the fruit bearing period, to vegetate *naturally*—they will be a little more tardy in growing up, but they will be hardy, healthy, and bear well. If our grounds are already rich and loose about the trees, part of it may be removed in the first warm spell, as winter goes off; and we may plant some shrubbery that springs early about their roots, such as gooseberry bushes, or currant bushes, or honeysuckles, or running box, or lay on in place of the rich ground, some sods from poor ground—perhaps some boards or long manure layed on the roots in the severity of winter, and moved off the first warm season, might back the juices—various experiments might be made to restrain or divest the too free and early circulation. The rearing of two trees nearly in contact, (giving them the espalier form) might answer. It is clear, then, that pear trees and peach trees should not approach each other, for the former will require treatment exactly the reverse of the latter, and I believe, in all, the knife should never be used after the tree bears fruit, unless some accident may make it necessary, as in the animal.

SILVANUS.

P. S. I hope that if this paper corresponds with known facts in other places, that the persons acquainted will not be backward in giving them to the editor of the Farmer—as also an account of any other fruit trees requiring natural treatment.

[Am. Farmer.]

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